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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE LOYAL WEST.

I HAVE some acquaintance with the country west of the Mississippi River, which is evidently the section designated as the West by Mr. Henry Litchfield West in his article in the April number of the REVIEW, entitled "Two Republics or One?"

I was born and educated in the State of New York. I lived three years on the east bank of the Mississippi River and thirty-five years in Colorado. I have been nearly twenty years in public life and have had, for thirty years, quite an extensive acquaintance throughout the country west of the Mississippi River, with public men both in the National and State governments, as well as with the people. The difference spoken of by Mr. West as to economic principles does exist, and there is quite a general feeling that the East is ungenerous to the West, and such differences may, and doubtless will, divide the people somewhat on sectional lines in party organizations; yet there is no sentiment in the West that will justify the inference that now, or hereafter, the people of that section will favor a divided republic. The suggestion of such a proposition would be regarded as treasonable, and would ruin any party or man who should even hint at such a possibility.

The West is strong and self-reliant. Its natural resources are of a character to justify the very general expectation that some day it will dominate the Republic, both on account of its population and its wealth. Every year the centre of population goes westward, and in a few years it will be west of the Mississippi River.

The West has produced within the last forty-eight years not less than two thousand million dollars of gold, and about one thousand three hundred and fifty million dollars of silver. It looks now as if the production of gold and silver will be greater within the next forty-eight years than in the past forty-eight years.

The West is not only rich in the precious metals, but in lead, copper, and iron. With immense fields of bituminous and anthracite coal, and the finest timber on the continent, it must in time secure its full share of American manufactures.

Agriculture must increase correspondingly, and, with the increase of population and wealth, the West will no longer complain of the East, nor will the East treat the West, as it has heretofore, as a dependency; and instead of the East and the West growing farther apart I believe they will be closer in their relations than they are now or ever have been. The West is loyal to the interests of the whole country. Without manufactures the

Western Republicans in Congress have maintained with great zeal the theory of protection to American industries. Their interest in coast defenses has not been less than that of those who live on the seaboard. The demand for a navy commensurate in strength with our national greatness and national danger has found its strongest advocates among the representatives of the States that could not be disturbed by a hostile force by land or sea.

The American spirit is strong in the West. An insult to our flag would be resented by the people of the West as it would in no other part of the country. They would not inquire what it would cost nor how it would affect trade and commerce. There will never be two Republics made out of this one. The West will never desire it, and if the East ever does the West will prevent it.

A common flag, a common ancestry, a common interest, justice to all in legislation and administration, will keep the States in a Union never to be broken by foreign or domestic foe.

H. M. TELLER.

OTHER PRESIDENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

IN his article in the May issue of the REVIEW on "Men Who Might Have Been Presidents," Mr. Joseph M. Rogers shows that some very slight accidents, circumstances, in fact, that could not be supposed at the time of their occurrence to be important—turned the Presidential prize in more than one election the way it went. How many times those who came so near being President and yet failed, through overlooking these apparently trifling circumstances, regretted their short foresight, one cannot know. But, no doubt, the involuntary reminiscence occasioned by these strays from fortune was frequent to these men. Webster's failure to get the Presidential office, which Mr. Rogers recalls to us, probably shortened his life.

Putting sentiment and moralizing aside, however, I am certain there are other instances than those Mr. Rogers cites where this close proximity to the Chief Magistracy can be shown. There was one, at least, of which I got the particulars from my father when I was a mere school boy. At the time of the Harrisburg Convention of December, 1839, which nominated Harrison and Tyler for its candidates for the election of 1840, there was a strongly talked of candidate from New York for Vice-President—Mr. Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, of Poughkeepsie. He was not only a rising and brilliant lawyer, but he had held public offices of large importance, the most conspicuous being that of United States Senator.

His career, in fact, seemed so flattering from his own point of view that he hoped it possible, when the claims of more notable men clashed sufficiently to prevent their nomination, to be actually nominated himself for President. So, to check the effort made to give him the second place on the ticket, he put a carefully written letter of declination in the hands of Dr. William Thomas, of Poughkeepsie, a delegate to Harrisburg, which, it is believed prevented his easy nomination to what became Tyler's place.

It is well known that at this convention the second place on the ticket was not greatly coveted, and the delegates were a good deal at seas as to a candidate. Mr. Rogers thinks that Tyler got the Vice-Presidential proffer on account of his tears over Clay's defeat for nomination to the first place. But the current tradition has always been that Tyler was put on to secure the vote